

days after service of the designation of the administrative law judge.

(b) Where no hearing is requested, the respondent shall file a written answer with the appropriate TTB officer within 15 days after service of a citation.

(c) An answer shall contain a concise statement of the facts that constitute his grounds for defense. The hearing may be limited to the issues contained in the citation and the answer. The administrative law judge, or appropriate TTB officer as the case may be, may, as a matter of discretion, waive any requirement of this section.

(d) Answers need not be filed in application proceedings.

[T.D. ATF-244, 51 FR 45763, Dec. 22, 1986, as amended by T.D. ATF-374, 61 FR 29957, June 13, 1996]

#### § 71.65 Answer admitting facts.

If the respondent desires to waive the hearing on the allegations of fact set forth in the order to show cause, and does not contest the facts, the answer may consist of a statement that the respondent admits all material allegations of fact charged in the citation to be true. The appropriate TTB officer shall thereupon base the decision on the citation and such answer although such an answer shall not affect the respondent's right to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, or the right to appeal.

[T.D. ATF-244, 51 FR 45763, Dec. 22, 1986, as amended by T.D. ATF-374, 61 FR 29957, June 13, 1996]

#### § 71.66 Prehearing conferences.

In any proceeding the administrative law judge may, upon his own motion or upon the motion of one of the parties or their qualified representatives, in his discretion direct the parties or their qualified representatives to appear at a specified time and place for a conference to consider:

- (a) The simplifications of the issues;
- (b) The necessity of amendments to the pleadings;
- (c) The possibility of obtaining stipulations, admissions of facts and of documents;
- (d) The limitation of the number of expert witnesses; and

(e) Such other matters as may aid in the disposition of the proceeding. As soon as practicable after such conference, the administrative law judge shall issue an order which recites the action taken thereat, the amendments allowed to the pleadings and the agreements made by the parties or their qualified representatives as to any of the matters considered, and which limits the issues for hearing to those not disposed of by admission or agreement; and such order shall control the subsequent course of the proceedings, unless modified for good cause by a subsequent order.

#### FAILURE TO APPEAR

#### § 71.67 Applications.

Where the applicant on an application for a permit has requested a hearing and does not appear at the appointed time and place, and evidence has not been offered to refute or explain the grounds upon which disapproval of the application is contemplated, this shall be construed as a waiver of the hearing, a default will be entered and the administrative law judge shall recommend disapproval of said application.

[21 FR 1441, Mar. 6, 1956. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975, and amended by T.D. ATF-199, 50 FR 9197, Mar. 6, 1985]

#### § 71.68 [Reserved]

#### § 71.69 Suspension, revocation, or annulment.

If on the date set for the hearing respondent does not appear and no evidence has been offered, the attorney for the Government will proceed ex parte and offer for the record sufficient evidence to make a prima facie case. At such hearing, documents, statements and affidavits may be submitted in lieu of testimony of witnesses.

#### WAIVER OF HEARING

#### § 71.70 Application proceedings.

At any time prior to final action thereon the applicant may, by filing written notice with the appropriate TTB officer, withdraw his application. If such a notice is filed after referral to